DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 364 494 SO 023 675

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TITLE Using Literature To Teach Middle Grades about War.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-89774-778-X
PUB DATE 93
NOTE 209p.; For a related document, see SO 023 676.
AVAILABLE FROM ORYX Press, 4041 North Central at Indian School Road, Phoenix, AZ 85012-3397.
PUB TYPE Guides - Classroom Use - Teaching Guides (For Teacher) (052) -- Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131) -- Books (010)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Adolescent Literature; Curriculum Enrichment; Grade 6; Grade 7; Grade 8; *History Instruction; Interdisciplinary Approach; Junior High Schools; Junior High School Students; Learning Activities; Middle Schools; *Social Studies; Supplementary Reading Materials; Teaching Methods; *United States History; *War
IDENTIFIERS Middle School Students

ABSTRACT

This document suggests ways of using children's literature to enrich the study of military history. The book is divided into six literature units that list and describe appropriate books, learning activities, and resources for teaching about specific wars. Studying historical periods through literature offers an invigorating, interesting way to become immersed in a past era and gain a substantial understanding of the people involved, their conditions, and their decisions. The thematic literature units provide a basis for meaningful learning experiences, encourage students to share the responsibility for their own learning, enhance the quality of individual student participation, and increase opportunities for using high level thinking processes. The book includes literature units on the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Vietnam War, and the Gulf War. The document is intended to provide teachers and school librarians with a basic framework for designing thematic units. The resources and units are recommended for use with students in grades six through eight, although the units could be adapted for higher or lower grade levels. Basic components of all the units are (1) a selected chronology, (2) recommended books including picture books, factual books, biographies, and fiction books, (3) sample lesson plans, (4) suggested questions, (5) suggested activities, and (6) glossaries. Guidelines for group discussions are included and discussed. (DK)

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